

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dear (U.S. Patent No. 2,549,178). Claims 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eaton (U.S. Patent No. 3,876,242) in view of Templeman (U.S. Patent No. 4,565,345). Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 39-41 are allowed and that claims 6-7 and 24-25 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 7-9, 17-19, 22-25 and 39-41 are Patentable

Applicants refer to the Final Office Action mailed May 29, 2009, and respectfully request entry of the enclosed claim amendments to put the case in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment should only require a cursory review since the claim amendments presented herein do not add any new features and do not significantly alter the scope of the claims. Consequently, the claim amendments should not require any further search by the Examiner. Accordingly, the present amendment is an earnest attempt to put the claims in condition for allowance based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

In the present application, claims 1, 4-9, 17-19, 22-25 and 36-41 were pending before the Final Office Action. In the Final Office Action, claims 39-41 were indicated as allowable and claims 6-7 and 24-25 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims.

These amendments put the case in condition for allowance. Specifically, the limitation of dependent claim 6 has been incorporated into amended claim 1 along with the limitations of intervening claims 4 and 5. Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 4-6 have therefore been cancelled. Claim 7 was amended to properly depend from claim 1, as amended herein, and should similarly be in allowable form.

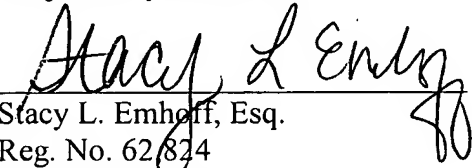
In addition, claims 39-41 were indicated as allowable and are in condition for allowance. Claims 36-38 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 7-9, 17-19, 22-25 and 39-41 should be in allowable form and an early indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully requests the allowance thereof. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to the above, the undersigned attorney would welcome a phone call to provide any further clarification or a formal interview.

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Respectfully submitted,



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